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Breast Cancer and Colorectal Cancer Screening in Arab Americans from 2021-2023

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Introduction:

Breast cancer (BC) and colorectal cancer (CRC) are among the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States^{1,2}; screening for these cancers is a pivotal component of preventative healthcare. Arab Americans represent a diverse, yet understudied, patient population that may encounter distinct barriers in undergoing cancer screening. This study provides insight into factors influencing BC and CRC screening rates among Arab Americans.

Methods:

CRC screening and BC screening data for screening-eligible Arab and non-Arab patients from 2021-2023 was obtained from ACCESS clinic in Dearborn, MI. Data was coded for ethnicity, gender, and screening status then analyzed using frequencies and chi-square analyses with SPSS version 28.

Results:

In 2021, 16.7% of Arab and 13.6% of non-Arab patients underwent CRC screening. In 2022, 29.4% of Arab and 23.6% non-Arab patients were screened for CRC. In 2023, 47.3% Arab and 35.8% of non-Arab patients were screened for CRC, which was significant ($\chi^2=5.557$, $p=0.018$). Interestingly, in 2022, Arab females underwent screening at a significantly higher rate than Arab males ($\chi^2=5.521$, $p=0.019$).

In 2021, 19.2% of Arab patients, and 17.8% of non-Arab patients were screened for BC. In 2022, 22.4% of Arab and 14.1% of non-Arab patients were screened, which was significant ($\chi^2=5.630$, $p=0.018$). In 2023, 25.4% of Arab and 20.5% of non-Arab patients underwent screening.

Conclusion:

From 2021 to 2023, the increase in CRC and BC screening rates in Arab patients shows progress in preventive care for Arab patients. Community interventions should be made to address barriers to preventative screenings in the Arab American patient population.

References:

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